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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1950.

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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 2/50 of the Ministry of Health.

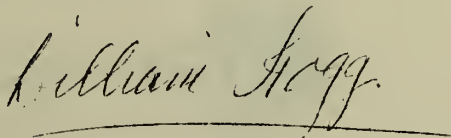
The classification of causes of death in this Report is based, for the first time, on the Abbreviated List of International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

I wish to acknowledge assistance given me, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. F.J. East, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William Hogg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Medical Officer of Health.

15th September, 1951.



LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
M.R.S.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss M.W. Burns (Resigned 25th August, 1950).

Miss A.O.Gale (Appointed 1st October, 1950)

Telephone:

Ross 214

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. E.G. Watkins (Resigned 31st March, 1950).

Mr. H.A.Lett, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed 12th July, 1950).

Telephone:

Ledbury 130

Council Offices,
Southend,
Ledbury.

1890-1891

1891-1892

1892-1893

1893-1894

1894-1895

1895-1896

1896-1897

1897-1898

1898-1899

1899-1900

1900-1901

1901-1902

1902-1903

1903-1904

1904-1905

1905-1906

1906-1907

1907-1908

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	49,867
Number of inhabited houses (31. 12. 50)	...	2,376
Rateable value	...	£32,964
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£132. 8. 9d.
Registrar General's estimated resident population	...	8,700

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	18.4
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	21.7
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	...	18.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	12.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	10.9
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.18
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.90

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

Heading No.30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	Deaths.	Total Births.
		Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 total live births	...	18.75
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	...	20.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	...	Nil

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford, and can be regarded as a valley running in a north west - south east direction, with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west. The Rural District is entirely agricultural in character.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 8,700 but during the month of September there is a large influx of population for the hop-picking. It is probable that the population is temporarily increased by 70% for a period of from four to six weeks depending on the crop. It is estimated that half of this increase is due to children under 14 years of age. The estimated population for 1950 is lower than that for 1949 (8,987).

The average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.7; the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.048, and the average number of persons per acre is 0.170. The natural increase of the population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, for the year was 55, a reduction upon the figure for the previous year (78).

Births.

The total number of live births for the year is 160 (75 males and 85 females), which represents a reduction of 20 on the previous year. The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 18.4 whilst the corresponding figure for the previous year is 20.0. The adjusted live birth rate is 21.7 per 1,000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1950 is 15.8 per 1,000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births is 15 (8 males and 7 females). This being less than the number for the year 1949, which is 19. Illegitimate live births formed 9.7% of all live births. Based upon the estimated population, the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.72 per 1,000 population.

Stillbirths.

The number of stillbirths registered is 3, which is greater than the number for the previous year (2). The stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births calculates out at 18.4, or 0.34 per 1,000 population. The latter figure compares with a stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1950 of 0.37 per 1,000 population.

Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 105 (58 males and 47 females), after deduction of deaths of non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District, this gives a crude death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Using the comparability factor for the area of 0.90, the adjusted death rate is 10.2 per 1,000 population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.6 per 1,000.

Heart disease (headings numbers 18, 19 and 20) accounted for 37 deaths (24 males and 13 females), and was the most frequent cause of death. The local adjusted death rate from this cause is 3.8 per 1,000 population.

Apoplexy (heading number 17 Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System) was the next most frequent cause of death; there were 16 deaths from this cause giving an adjusted death rate from this cause for the Rural District of 1.66.

Cancer of all sites caused this year 13 deaths (5 males and 8 females) whereas in 1949, this disease caused 10 deaths. The adjusted death rate from this disease for the Rural District for 1950 is 1.3 per 1,000 population.

On the following page is given a table of causes of death according to sex.

Table of Causes of Death According to Sex.

Heading No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Persons.	Adjusted D.R. per 1,000 Popln.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	3	4	0.41
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	1	-	1	0.10
6.	Meningococcal infections.	1	-	1	0.10
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	-	1	0.10
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	-	1	1	0.10
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	-	1	1	0.10
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	6	11	1.14
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	-	2	0.21
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	3	13	16	1.66
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	11	3	14	1.46
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	2	3	0.31
20.	Other heart disease.	12	8	20	2.07
21.	Other circulatory disease.	3	2	5	0.52
22.	Influenza.	-	1	1	0.10
23.	Pneumonia.	1	2	3	0.31
24.	Bronchitis.	3	1	4	0.41
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1	0.10
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1	0.10
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	4	2	6	0.62
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.10
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	-	1	0.10
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	3	1	4	0.41
34.	All other accidents.	1	1	2	0.21
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	1	-	1	0.10
All Causes.		58	47	105	10.8

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory situated at the County Offices, Hereford, provides for the examination of the usual clinical and Public Health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Swabs	...	6
Sputa	...	6
C.S. Fluid	...	1
Water (Bacter- iological)	...	64
Milk (Methylene Blue)	...	28

In addition, the Laboratory carries out investigations on behalf of the Medical Practitioners within the area. These are not included in the above table.

One sample of water was submitted to the Public Analyst for examination by chemical methods.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford. Infectious disease is moved by the ambulance stationed at Stretton Sugwas Hospital.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the District, the needs of which are met by the facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern, and Hereford. Accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease is provided at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital whilst some notifiable disease is treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Clinics.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary committee, with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar Clinic, held at the Church Room, Ledbury is available to the inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948,
Section 50.

No burials were carried out by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47.

One case was considered for action under this section, but the person died before the necessary formal action could be taken.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern sector of the County of Hereford and can be regarded as a valley of roughly V-shape running in a north-west to south-east direction, narrow towards the south-east. The western boundary is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills, in Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malverns is somewhat complex but on the Ledbury side, upper silurian rocks seem to predominate. The floor of the valley is formed by the Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System, here frequently covered by a red heavy soil. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area does not appear to be richly supplied with natural water sources.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts.

With so many separate sources of water supply, it is difficult to exert a very efficient control of the quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants. This shows considerable variation from water of excellent potable quality in the mains of Local Authorities, to water of poor quality found in some shallow wells. 64 samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, for bacteriological examination, and one water sample was sent to the Public Analyst for examination by chemical methods.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council, supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply portions of the parishes of Eastnor and Ledbury Rural. These supplies form the only chlorinated supplies within the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in the Colwall parish. Altogether in this parish 455 dwellings are supplied from mains by separate services. There are no standpipe supplies.

There are other small piped schemes in operation at Eastnor (91 dwellings), Much Marcle (22 dwellings) and Tarrington (26 dwellings). It would appear that about 2,500 inhabitants are connected to piped supplies. 28 dwellings are supplied from the mains of the Ledbury U.D.C. in Ledbury Rural Parish and 4 at Eastnor.

No new sources of public water supply were developed within the area during the year, and no extension of public water mains were made.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The parish of Colwall is provided with a modern system of public sewers to which most of the dwellings are connected. A small sewage disposal works is provided - this is of an old type but functions fairly satisfactorily. The possibility of renovation of these works is a matter which is engaging the attention of

the/

Council and expert advice is being obtained. In addition to the system at Colwall, there is a short length of public sewer in the parish of Bosbury, taking the sewage of a small number of dwellings.

The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses is 39 and 8 new drains were constructed in connection with other premises. Ten existing drains were found to be defective and repaired. No alterations were made to works of sewage disposal.

The Sanitary Inspector made 62 drain tests in the course of his duties.

Rivers and Streams.

The chief rivers flowing through the District are the Leadon, the Frome and Cradley Brook, all of which are quite small. The Leadon, the largest stream in the area, is a tributary of the river Severn.

The condition of two of these streams was not entirely satisfactory, for the River Leadon showed some evidence of pollution, and the attention of the Severn River Board was directed to this condition. The Cradley Brook was showing evidence of pollution during periods of dry weather and the Council is proposing to improve the effluent from the Colwall Sewage Disposal Works.

Closet Accommodation.

It is estimated that about one third of all the dwelling houses are provided with water closets, whilst the remainder continue to use earth closets. These water closets are mostly in the parish of Colwall, as this parish has an adequate piped water scheme.

Every opportunity is taken to secure a conversion from the conservancy systems where possible, and during the year two privies
were/

converted to pail closets and three converted to water closets, whilst four pail closets were converted to water closets. Conversions therefore, resulted in the provision of 7 water closets and two pail closets. In addition thirty seven other new water closets were provided.

Public Cleansing.

A system of weekly domestic refuse collection is in operation in the parish of Colwall, the collection being carried out under contract by a motor vehicle, and disposal is made by tipping. The parish tip is small, conveniently situated and well maintained. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse or the cleansing and emptying of cesspools and privies. A private scheme of domestic refuse collection operates in Mathon parish, the collection being once each month, and a similar scheme operates in Eastnor parish every alternate month.

There is no refuse collection in the other parishes of the district. The Council does not carry out street cleaning.

There are no Public Wash Houses or Baths situated within the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections

Accumulations.	...	2
Animals.	...	3
Ashbins and Ashpits.	...	4
Bakehouses.	...	3
Camping Sites.	...	1
Caravans.	...	1
Drainage.	...	49
Drain Tests.	...	63
Filthy and Verminous Premises.	...	2
Filthy and Verminous Persons.	...	1
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	11

Inspections (continued).

Factories(with mechanical power)	...	15
Shops.	...	7
Fruit and Hop-pickers' Quarters.	...	165
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens.	...	3
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	2
Infectious Disease.	...	19
Rats and Mice Act.	...	7
Swimming Baths and Pools.	...	2
Unsound Food.	...	1
Water Supply.	...	98
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1935).	...	30
Housing (Other).	...	47
Public Conveniences.	...	2
Schools.	...	1

Notices Issued.

Informal.	...	49
Statutory re housing.		Nil

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed.	...	1
Ditches cleared.	...	1
Drains and Gullies cleared.	...	9
Drains repaired.	...	15
Drains reconstructed.	...	11
New Drains provided.	...	56
Defective Floors repaired.	...	1
Defective Roofs repaired.	...	14
Defective Eaves and Gutters repaired.	...	1
Defective Coppers remedied.	...	6
Disinfections after Infectious Disease...	...	14
Defective Chimneys repaired.	...	7
Closets repaired.	...	3
New Gullies provided.	...	69
Gulley Covers provided.	...	69
Inspection Chambers repaired.	...	2
Inspection Chambers provided.	...	68
Privies converted to Water Closets.	...	3
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets.	...	4
Privies converted to Pail Closets.	...	2
Rainwater Pipes provided or repaired.	...	2
New Sinks provided.	...	22
New Urinals provided.	...	3
Sanitary Fittings provided.	...	45
Wells cleansed or repaired.	...	11
Miscellaneous Defects remedied.	...	27

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There were three swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. The swimming pool owned by the Ledbury Urban District Council is just within the boundary of the Rural District./

It is a pool of old pattern and its use is continued for want of better provision. The Urban District Council is proposing to make considerable improvements to this pool.

Two other swimming pools are privately owned and modern, being equipped with circulation and filtration apparatus.

There is one private swimming bath not open to the public, in the District, and a privately owned pool at one time open to the public, remained out of use throughout the year.

Hop and Fruit-pickers' Quarters.

As the cultivation of hops is a most important agricultural activity of the area, it is customary for a large number of hop-pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September.

During the 1950 season, it is estimated that over 6,000 pickers and their dependants were lodged in accommodation provided by the growers. In addition, a significant number of pickers provided their own accommodation by means of caravan or tent.

Lodgings are provided by growers on 78 different premises. These lodgings show considerable variation in size and nature. Some are formed from the temporary use and adaptation of farm buildings normally used for other purposes, but the trend at the present time is for special buildings to be erected for lodgings.

The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year. In my experience, extended over thirteen years, I find that each year some improvement takes place in this accommodation. This problem may cease in the future, as there seems to be a tendency for machine stripping to become more general. In 1950 six farms used machine stripping with a great saving of labour. One farm which usually employed not less than 200 pickers, was able to reduce the number of additional temporary hands to twelve. Nevertheless, 165 inspections were made of hop and fruit pickers' lodgings.

Camping Sites.

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Camping within the area is so limited that it presents no major public health problems. Eastnor Park is used as a camping ground during the summer by members of exempted bodies. The maximum number of campers at any time during the year is estimated not greater than 100.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No dwelling house within the District was found to be infested with bed-bugs and no action was required by the Department.

Factory Acts, 1937 and 1948.

At the end of the year, there were five factories without mechanical power, and eighteen with mechanical power, registered with the Local Authority.

During the year the former were inspected on 11 occasions and the latter on fifteen occasions.

Three defects were found and all were remedied before the close of the year. These defects related in one instance to insufficient sanitary accommodation, and in two instances to defective sanitary accommodation.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority at the present time. This class of employment appears to have little appeal under present conditions in this particular area.

Factory Form 572 (Revised).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1950, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	5	11	1	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	15	1	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises).	5	5	-	-
Total	28	31	2	-

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		No. of cases prosecutions instituted.
			To H.M. Inspect- or.	By H.M. Inspect- or.	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient.	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-

SECTION D - HOUSINGNew Dwellings.

It is unfortunate that the Council was unable to complete any dwelling houses during the year, but progress seemed to accelerate as the year passed.

However, the erection of Council houses is in progress at Woolhope (6 dwellings), Mathon (6 dwellings), Bosbury (8 dwellings), Much Marcle (6 dwellings) and Eastnor (4 dwellings), and it is hoped that the majority of these houses will be completed during the present year.

Private persons completed the erection of 5 dwellings, whilst two were in course of erection but incomplete at the end of the year. The following table gives the location of these according to parish:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Completed.</u>	<u>Incomplete.</u>
Colwall.	2	-
Little Marcle.	1	1
Much Marcle	1	-
Wellington Heath.	1	-
Woolhope.	-	1

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	54
	(b) Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	79
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	30
	(b) Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	30
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	7
4.	Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	9

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	17
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil

- | | | |
|------|--|-----|
| (b) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices. | |
| (i) | By Owners. | Nil |
| (ii) | By Local Authority in default of Owners. | Nil |
| 2. | Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | Nil |
| (b) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. | |
| (i) | By Owners. | Nil |
| (ii) | By Local Authority in default of Owners. | Nil |
| 3. | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | Nil |
| (b) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | Nil |
| 4. | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (a) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | Nil |
| (b) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | Nil |

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---|-----|
| 1. | (a) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. | 62 |
| | (b) | Number of families dwelling therein. | 82 |
| | (c) | Number of persons dwelling therein. | 236 |
| | (d) | Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. | 1 |
| | (e) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. | Nil |
| | (f) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. | Nil |

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

Section 2. The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of the erection of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation. Nil

Section 4. (a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. Nil

(b) The number of new dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. Nil

Section 15. (a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses or other buildings. Nil
(b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority. Nil

Section 20. (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings. Nil
(b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. Nil.

Rural Housing Survey.

The systematic survey of rural dwellings of £12 or less rateable value is not yet completed, but an analysis of the number of such houses inspected up to date shows the following result:-

Category 1.	(in all respects satisfactory)	...	13%
"	2. (houses needing minor repairs)	...	15%
"	3. (houses requiring structural alteration).	...	46%
"	4. (houses fit only for demolition)	...	26%

This suggests that about one quarter of the cottages within the area are unfit for human habitation - a finding which is not surprising. No real progress is likely to be made in dealing with these unfit dwellings until house building can proceed more rapidly than at the present time.

Overcrowding.

At the beginning of the year 61 dwellings were known to be legally overcrowded, and one new case came to the notice of the Department during the year. It was not possible to secure abatement of overcrowding in any instance, so that the number of overcrowded dwellings increased to 62 as far as is known.

It would appear that overcrowding is a static problem so far as the Rural District is concerned, but it will presumably diminish as house building becomes accelerated: abatement does not promise to be rapid.

The cost of erection of new dwellings continues to be high with the result that the rent of new Council dwellings tends to form too large a fraction of the weekly expenditure of the occupiers. Excessive rent can produce a marked fall in living standards.

In conclusion, I can only repeat that the greatest housing need of the Rural District is the erection of new dwellings.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

There are no plants for the pasteurisation of milk and no factories for the manufacturing or processing of milk within the area. No supplementary licences were issued by the Council for the sale of pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk.

Twenty eight samples of milk were examined by the methylene blue test as a precautionary measure. In no instance was milk sold within the area suspected to be producing disease in man.

Ice Cream.

The sale of this particular foodstuff continued to be carried on during the year, and six premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of Ice Cream, and one person was registered as a manufacturer. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises. Two inspections of these premises were made.

Water Cress.

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are no slaughter houses in use within the District, all slaughtering for meat for human consumption is now carried out at the Central Abattoir in Hereford. The necessity for inspection at the time of slaughter did not arise.

A certain amount of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is devoted to the inspection of food exposed for sale, etc., and in the course of this work the following food was found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption:-

17 x 16 oz. tins of Evaporated Milk - Damage and decomposition.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Once again I take this opportunity of emphasising the importance of prompt notification of suspected food poisoning to the Department. Where delayed notification occurs, the chance of a satisfactory investigation is remote, as the patient recovers and the suspected food is destroyed before the investigation can take place.

Situated within the area are a jam factory, a fruit and vegetable canning factory, two soft drink factories, and a factory for the manufacture of cider and perry.

<u>Carcases Inspected and Condemned.</u>					
	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known).	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected.	-	-	-	-	-
All diseases, except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercul- osis.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
DISEASE.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was very low - only 57 notifications of disease were received. This shows a reduction of 51 notifications on comparison with the previous year. This suggests that the incidence of notifiable disease has returned to the low incidence experienced previous to the year 1940. It must be remembered that measles and whooping cough were not compulsorily notifiable before 1940, and the total of 57 notifications includes 43 respecting measles and one respecting whooping cough.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was absent from the Rural District throughout the year as only one case was notified, in the third quarter. This is somewhat unexpected as 1949 was also a year of low incidence, whilst 1948 and 1947 gave rise to 50 notifications each.

Measles.

The number of notifications of measles received was 43 (24 male and 19 female) confined to the second, third and fourth quarters. This was the most prevalent disease but the cases were mild. The disease appeared in the second quarter (8 cases) and spread of incidence occurred during the third quarter (25 cases), whilst the last quarter yielded only 10 notifications. The incidence was slightly higher in males.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Unfortunately the incidence of acute poliomyelitis increased on comparison with the previous year, for 6 notifications were received against 3 in 1949. However, only two of these proved to be paralytic. One case was fatal giving a death rate of 0.1 per 1,000 population.

Scarlet Fever.

Three notifications were received of sporadic cases, occurring in the third and fourth quarters. This disease appears to be relatively mild at the present time.

On the following page is given a table showing the incidence of infectious disease in each sex according to quarter (confirmed civilian cases only).

Confirmed Civilian Cases for each Quarter,
according to Sex.

Disease.	1st Qtr.		2nd Qtr.		3rd Qtr.		4th Qtr.		For the Year.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	1
Measles.	-	-	4	4	14	11	6	4	24	19
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic).	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic).	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	3	1
Pneumonia.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	-	2	4	5	19	14	8	5	31	26

Two notifications of pneumonia were received, whilst three deaths were attributed to this disease, giving an adjusted death rate of 0.31 per 1,000 population.

Analysis of total notified cases according to Age.

Disease.	Under										To- tal.
	1	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	65+	N.K.	
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
Poliomye- litis. P.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Poliomye- litis. N.P.	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Measles.	1	6	11	20	1	3	-	-	-	1	43
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals.	2	7	12	23	2	6	-	1	1	3	57

The efficiency of notification appears to be very satisfactory, and my thanks are due to the medical practitioners of the area for their willing co-operation.

When the Health Service Act, 1946, came into force, the Council ceased to be concerned with the provision of hospital treatment for persons suffering from infectious disease. This has relieved the Council of the cost of provision of such treatment, but it does seem that cases of infectious disease are admitted and discharged from hospital at times without the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health of the Area. This would seem to impair control over infectious disease, as return cases are not unknown, and investigation of source of infection requires knowledge of a case at the onset of the disease.

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 64 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 50 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary cases. During the year 12 cases were added, 10 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary; of these, 5 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary were new cases. 23 cases were removed from the Register during the year, 19 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year, therefore, 53 cases remained on the Register, 41 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary cases.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1951.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45+	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Totals	2	3	1	-	2	3	-	-

There were 5 deaths attributed to tuberculosis giving a death rate of 0.57 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.



